

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AGR-10 AID-05

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 CIEP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /155 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3548

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 5580

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TAGS: UNGA, EGEN

SUBJ: 30TH UNGA - SECOND COMMITTEE: ITEM 58 - OPERATIONAL
ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

REF: USUN 5395

SUMMARY: AFTER HAVING HEARD SEVENTY COUNTRY STATEMENTS, FIVE
UN SPECIALIZED AGENCY STATEMENTS AND SUMMING UP STATEMENTS BY
REPRESENTATIVES OF UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA AND UNOTC, THE SECOND
COMMITTEE CONCLUDED ITS WEEK LONG, LARGELY UNEVENTFUL,
DISCUSSION ON OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT ON
31 OCTOBER. A HARD HITTING UK STATEMENT ON UNDP RIPPLED THE
WATERS. END OF SUMMARY.

1. THE DISCUSSION COVERED THE ENTIRE DEVELOPMENTAL SPECTRUM
RANGING FROM NUMEROUS REMARKS ABOUT COUNTRY AND AGENCY
PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS AS WELL AS OVERALL POLICY AND
DEVELOPMENTAL PHILOSOPHY. THE MOST IMPORTANT AND RECURRING
GENERAL AND AGENCY-SPECIFIC THEMES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL THEMES

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A. GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH THE PROGRAMS AND LEADERSHIP OF UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNV AND UNOTC COUPLED WITH A DESIRE THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE PROGRAMS BE FAR LARGER AND PROGRAM DELIVERY FASTER AND MORE COST EFFECTIVE.

B. THE SOVIET BLOC SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WITHOUT EXCEPTION FOLLOWED THE SAME LITANY A) SLAPPING BACK HARD AT THE "SLANDEROUS" ATTACK ON THE USSR CONTAINED IN THE CHINESE STATEMENT; B) ASKING (AS DID SWEDEN AND OTHERS) THAT UNICEF AND THE WHOLE UN SYSTEM DO FAR MORE TO ASSIST THE COUNTRIES OF THE INDO-CHINA PENINSULA; C) RECOMMENDING ALL UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN CHILE AND SOUTH KOREA BE STOPPED; AND D) OBJECTING THAT SOCIALIST TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE, INSTITUTIONS, PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT ETC. WERE NOT BEING SUFFICIENTLY UTILIZED BY UNDP WHICH DISCRIMINATED IN FAVOR OF WESTERN DEVELOPED COUNTRY SOURCES.

C. CONTRARY TO THE CASE IN FORMER YEARS, NO ATTACKS WERE MADE ON ISRAEL; INDEED ISRAEL WAS NEVER EVEN MENTIONED.

D. APPROXIMATELY AN EVEN AMOUNT OF LIP SERVICE WAS PAID TO CERDS, THE 6TH AND 7TH SPECIAL SESSION RESOLUTIONS AND THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS ON UN RESTRUCTURING WITH THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION PERHAPS COMING OUT SLIGHTLY AHEAD OF ITS RIVALS.

E. PERHAPS BECAUSE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR PETERSEN DID NOT MENTION THE FACT IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, ONLY TWO OR THREE DELEGATES ALLUDED TO THE UPCOMING DEPARTURE OF PETERSEN IN THEIR STATEMENTS.

2. UNDP--APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF OF ALL THE COMMENTS MADE WERE IN REFERENCE TO THE UNDP WITH THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THEM BEING QUITE FAVORABLE OF
A) THE JOB BEING DONE BY ADMINISTRATOR PETERSEN
B) THE NEW DIMENSION AND FURTHER DECENTRALIZED ORIENTATION OF THE UNDP PROGRAM THAT HAD BEEN AGREED TO BY CONSENSUS AT THE 20TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING IN JUNE
C) THE IMPROVED ATTITUDE TOWARD AND INCREASED EMPHASIS UNDP IS NOW PLACING ON TCDC
D) THE INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO UNCLASSIFIED

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UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES ALONG WITH A DESIRE IT BE FURTHER INCREASED

E) UNDP ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND TO THE NEW NATIONS IN AFRICA

F) THE PROSPECTS THAT A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF THE UNDP PROGRAM DURING ITS SECOND CYCLE (1977-1981) WILL GO TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

3. ON THE CRITICAL SIDE, UNDP ITS MAJOR DONORS AND OTHERS WERE CHASTIZED FOR

A) NOT MAKING ANYTHING NEAR THE FULL AND PROPER USE OF THE CAPABILITIES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO EXECUTE THEIR OWN PROJECTS, FURNISH EXPERTS, SUB-CONTRACTORS, EQUIPMENT ETC.

B) WELL-OFF COUNTRIES NOT INCREASING THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNDP SUFFICIENTLY TO PERMIT REAL GROWTH OF THE PROGRAM ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE HIGHER INFLATION RATE, THE LOW ODA LEVEL IN MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE AVERSION BY MOST OF THESE COUNTRIES (SCANDINAVIA AND NETHERLANDS EXCLUDED) TO THE CONCEPT OF ANNEQUITABLE BURDEN SHARING TARGET MECHANISM. MANY SAID UNDP CONTRIBUTIONS MUST GROW BY AT LEAST 15 PERCENT A YEAR DURING THE SECOND CYCLE IF UNDP IS TO BE ABLE TO FUNCTION AT A MINIMALLY LEVEL.

C) THE UK DELEGATE IN THE MOST REFRESHING STATEMENT MADE BY ANYONE (REPORTED IN MORE DETAIL IN A1368) CRITICIZED UNDP FOR NOT BRINGING TO THE COMMITTEES ATTENTION ITS CURRENT MAJOR FINANCIAL LIQUIDITY PROBLEM. HE ALSO CRITICIZED ITS INADEQUATE HEADQUARTERS MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS WHICH--ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT DECENTRALIZATION MOVES--NEEDED TO BE STRENGTHENED QUICKLY OR OTHERWISE UNDP MIGHT BE "AS GUILTY OF CREATING PROLIFERATION-IN THIS CASE OF SEPARATE PROGRAMS WITH UNDP--AS THOSE WHOM ADMINISTRATOR PETERSEN HAS SO RECENTLY CRITICIZED".

4. UNFPA--MOST STATEMENTS FAVORED UNFPA'S HOLDING ITS FIRST PLEDGING CONFERENCE IN 1976, PRAISED UNFPA, ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ITS RAPID GROWTH RATE, ITS EMPHASIS UNCLASSIFIED

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ON COMPREHENSIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMS AND ITS ATTEMPT TO FACE UP TO THE DIFFICULT TASK OF SETTING PRIORITIES FOR ITS LIMITED FUNDS. A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS RECOMMENDED UNFPA SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON SETTING REGIONAL PRIORITIES AS MEANINGFUL GLOBAL PRIORITIES WERE NOT YET A FEASIBLE GOAL. APPROXIMATELY TEN COUNTRIES URGED UNFPA TO CONCENTRATE ON ACTION ORIENTED PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, A LIKE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES SAID THEY FULLY DESIRED AND EXPECTED UNFPA'S FUTURE PROGRAM TO REFLECT THE ENLARGED, MORE DEVELOPMENTAL ORIENTED OBJECTIVES OF POPULATION PROGRAMMING SET DOWN IN THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION.

5. UNICEF--THE UNICEF PROGRAM RECEIVED MORE PRAISE AND FAR LESS CRITICISM THAN ANY OF THE OTHER PROGRAMS DISCUSSED UNDER THIS ITEM WITH MANY COUNTRIES A) INDICATING

SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATING 1977 AS WORLD CHILDREN'S YEAR AND
B) STATING THEY PLANNED TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS
TO UNICEF AT THE UPCOMING UNICEF PLEDGING CONFERENCE.

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6. UNV--THE UNV PROGRAM ALSO RECEIVED WIDE GENERAL
PRAISE FOR THE PROGRESS IT WAS MAKING AND ITS FOCUSING
ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON ON USING A HIGHER
PERCENTAGE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY VOLUNTEERS.

7. UNOTC--THE OTC PROGRAM OCCASIONED LITTLE DISCUSSION.
WHAT LITTLE THERE WAS WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE. THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES SAID THEY WANTED OTC'S PROGRAM GREATLY EXPANDED
WHILE THE WESTERN AND SOCIALIST BLOC COUNTRIES WANTED
THE OTC PROGRAM SWITCHED FROM THE REGULAR UN BUDGET AND
FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE UNDP (VOLUNTARY FUNDED) PROGRAM.

8. WORLD FOOD PROGRAM--ONLY ABOUT 20PERCENT OF THE STATEMENTS
REFERRED TO THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM WITH THE GREAT MAJORITY
OF THOSE SPEAKING TO THE SUB ITEM CONTENT TO LIMIT THEIR
REMARKS TO A) SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION
RECONSTITUTING THE ROLE OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE; AND B) ACCEPTING IN PRINCIPLE A \$750 MILLION
PLEDGING TARGET FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WFP

FOR THE 1977-78 BIENNium.

9. SPECIALIZED AGENCY STATEMENTS--THESE STATEMENTS FOCUSED
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ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON REFUTING AN ARGENTINE CRITICISM
THAT THE AGENCIES WERE DOING NEXT TO NOTHING TO FURTHER
THE IMPORTANT GOALS OF TCDC. EACH AGENCY DESCRIBED WHAT
IT HAD DONE IN THE TCDC AREA OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS AND
PLANNED TO DO DURING 1976.

10. SUMMING UP STATEMENTS--UNDP DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR PATEL
IN THE ONLY STATEMENT OF NOTE SAID

A) WHILE RECOGNIZING UNDP WAS A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM IT
WAS IMPORTANT THAT IT HAVE A GOOD FEEL REGARDING HOW
MUCH IT WOULD LIKELY HAVE IN THE WAY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES
FOR THE SECOND (1977-1981) CYCLE OF ITS PROGRAM

B) UNDP NOW PLANNED TO CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING THE
QUALITY OF ITS PROGRAM BY GIVING IT A GREATER RESULT
ORIENTATION THAT WOULD FURTHER FACTOR IN NEW DIMENSIONS,
AND TCDC BUT WOULD AT THE SAME TIME KEEP THE BEST OF THE
TRIED AND TRUE TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

C) UNDP WOULD NOW STRIVE TO PERFECT ITS QUITE NEW
DECENTRALIZATION ORIENTATION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME
IMPROVING ITS HEADQUARTERS MANAGEMENT, INFORMATION AND
FINANCIAL CONTROL MECHANISMS TO ASSURE THAT IMPLEMENTATION
PRECEDED BOTH SMOOTHLY AND AT A CONTINUED HIGH RATE IN
THE FORTHCOMING CHANGEOVER PERIOD FROM THE 1ST TO THE 2ND
FIVE YEAR COUNTRY PROGRAMMING CYCLE

D) THE LARGE INCREASE IN UNIT COSTS (EXPERTS NOW COST
\$42,000 NOT THE \$36,000 THAT HAD BEEN ESTIMATED) UNDP
HAS SUDDENLY BEEN FACED WITH IN RECENT MONTHS ARE
MORE THAN ANY PRUDENT MAN WOULD HAVE ESTIMATED. UNDP MUST
AND IS PAYING INCREASING ATTENTION TO COPING WITH THIS
TROUBLESOME NEW FINANCIAL AND PROGRAM CONSTRAINT.

11. U.S. STATEMENT ON ITEM BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.
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